Empowerment of women through education under the New Education Policy

973. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one of the important postulates of the National Policy on Education is to promote the empowerment of women through education;

(b) if so, what progress has been made so far in this regard, since the enforcement of the policy; and

(c) what programmes and targets have been laid down for carrying out the said objective of the policy, under the remaining period of the current Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Policy on Education 1986 envisages a positive, interventionist role for the National Education System in the empowerment of women.

(b) and (c) It is proposed to take up the project 'Education for Women's Equality' in 10 districts in 3 States namely Gujarat, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh. The project envisages a comprehensive programme to solve the problems of women's education as linked with overall improvement in women's status, by (i) provision of basic support services to women through the programmes of relevant Departments, (ii) reorientation of teachers, adult education/non-formal education instructors and the supervisory and administrative personnel in accordance with the concept of Education for Women's Equality; (iii) establishment of Women's Activity Centres to increase participation of women in development programmes in general, and, in particular, in educational programmes; (iv) several other measures to increase women's access to education; (v) establishment of condensed courses for education and training of rural women; (vi) expansion of vocational courses for women; and (vii) involvement of voluntary agencies and women's activist groups in training and in promoting a support system to the programme.

Cooperation between India and Turkey in the Railway Sector

974. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Turkey held discussions recently to explore areas of mutual cooperation in the railway sector;

(b) whether a high level delegation had visited Turkey during May this year for the purpose;

(c) whether any agreement has been reached, if so, what are details thereof; and

(d) to what extent the tie-ups with Turkey would held India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) It has been agreed between the 2 sides that cooperation in the railway sector should include participation by IRCON and RITES in railway activities in Turkey.

(d) Technical Co-operation will promote the friendly relationship between the two countries. It is also expected to create further business prospects for the two public sector companies of Ministry of Railways.

Demand of Additional Amount by Nhava Sheva Port Trust

975. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nhava Sheva Port Trust has sought an additional amount of Rs. 75 crores from Bombay Port Trust and Rs. 50 crores from the Kandla Port Trust;

(b) whether the original estimate of the project was of Rs. 506 crores;

(c) if so, what expenditure was proposed to be incurred originally on this project and to what extent it has increased; and

(d) whether the amount of rupees 125 crores, sought by Nhava Sheva Port authorities, has been provided; if so, to what extent?